



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Substitute Bill No. 5388



H B 0 5 3 8 8 V A P D 0 3 1 2 1 3

AN ACT REQUIRING CITIES AND TOWNS TO DESIGNATE A VETERANS' SERVICE CONTACT PERSON.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 27-102~~l~~ of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
3 *October 1, 2013*):

4 (b) The commissioner may appoint a unit head to administer a
5 veterans' advocacy and assistance unit for the aid and benefit of
6 veterans, their spouses and eligible dependents and family members.
7 Such unit shall conduct an annual training course for any city or town
8 employee designated a veterans' service contact person pursuant to
9 subsection (b) of section 27-135, as amended by this act. The unit shall
10 have a staff of not less than eight men and women, including six
11 service officers, and clerical personnel. The unit head and the service
12 officers shall be veterans, as defined in section 27-103, or veterans who
13 were awarded the armed forces expeditionary medal for service by the
14 armed forces. At least one of the service officers shall be a woman
15 having a demonstrated interest in the concerns of women veterans,
16 who shall be responsible for addressing those concerns, and, effective
17 upon the next opening of a service officer position occurring on or
18 after July 1, 2010, at least two of the service officers shall be individuals
19 having bilingual proficiency in English and Spanish, within existing
20 authorized positions. Each service officer shall successfully complete a

21 course in veterans' benefits within one year of commencement of
22 employment and shall be assigned to one of the five congressional
23 districts of the state.

24 Sec. 2. Section 27-135 of the general statutes is repealed and the
25 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2013*):

26 (a) Any city or town, either separately or with one or more other
27 cities and towns, may, by ordinance, establish a local veterans'
28 advisory committee which shall have the responsibility of carrying out
29 locally the duties and purposes of this section and, within their charter
30 powers and as otherwise provided by law, may make available to such
31 local committees the necessary funds to carry out their duties and
32 responsibilities. The committee may [(a)] (1) act as the coordinating
33 agency in all matters concerning veterans and their dependents,
34 coordinating the activities of public and private facilities concerned
35 with veterans' reemployment, education, rehabilitation and adjustment
36 to peacetime living; [(b)] (2) cooperate with all national, state and local
37 governmental and private agencies in securing services and benefits to
38 which a veteran or his dependents may be entitled; [(c)] (3) use the
39 services and facilities of the veterans organizations so far as possible to
40 carry out the purposes of this section; and [(d)] (4) encourage and
41 coordinate vocational training services for veterans.

42 (b) Any city or town that (1) has not established a local veterans'
43 advisory committee pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, and (2)
44 does not otherwise provide funding for a veterans' service officer shall
45 designate an employee to serve as a veterans' service contact person in
46 such city or town. Any city or town employee designated as a veterans'
47 service contact person shall carry out the duties described in
48 subsection (a) of this section and shall complete an annual training
49 course conducted by the veterans' advocacy and assistance unit, as
50 described in subsection (b) of section 27-102I, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	27-1021(b)
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2013</i>	27-135

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 2, "as amended by this act" was added for purposes of accuracy and clarity.

VA

Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO C/R

PD